

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-17 and 23-33 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 16, 17 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Arnaud (WO 00/56007). Assignee respectfully asserts that these claims are not anticipated by Arnaud. However, in an effort to advance prosecution and issuance of this application, Assignee has amended the claims as well as added new claims to include subject matter indicated as allowable, and intends to pursue the remaining subject matter in a continuation application.

Assignee respectfully notes that although claim 6 is asserted to be rejected in paragraph 2, the Office Action later indicates in paragraph 4 that claims 4, 6-15 are allowable subject matter. Because there was no detailed rejection made with respect to claim 6, Assignee believes that the inclusion of claim 6 among the rejected claims was a mistake.

With respect to claims 1 and 5-17 contained herein, Assignee respectfully asserts that these claims include subject matter which has been indicated as allowable. Assignee has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter from claim 4 (which includes the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 3). Thus, Assignee respectfully requests that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added claims 23-30, Assignee respectfully asserts that these claims include subject matter which has been indicated as allowable. In particular, claim 23 combines the subject matter of original claim 6, which depended upon claims 1-3 and was indicated as allowable. Thus, Assignee respectfully asserts that new claim 23, along with its dependent claims 24-30 are allowable over the cited references.

With respect to newly added claims 31 and 32, Assignee respectfully asserts that these claims include subject matter which has been indicated as allowable. In particular, claim 31 combines the subject matter of original claim 13, which depended upon claims 1-3 and was indicated as allowable in Paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Claim 32 combines the subject matter of original claim 14, which depended upon claims 1-3 and was indicated as allowable in Paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Thus, Assignee respectfully asserts that new claims 31 and 32 are allowable over the cited references.

With respect to newly added claim 33, Assignee respectfully asserts that this claim includes subject matter which has been indicated as allowable. In particular, claim 33 is a system claim that combines the subject matter of original claim 4, which depended upon claims 1-3 and was indicated as allowable. Thus, Assignee respectfully asserts that new claim 33 is allowable over the cited references.

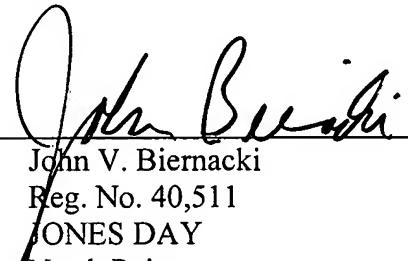
CONCLUSION

To the extent that there are any remaining issues in this application, the undersigned invites the Examiner to conduct a telephonic interview to resolve such issues. If not, the Assignee respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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